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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - UNREST IN TIBET

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Wednesday morning included the largest opposition party's decision to reject the GOJ's second nominee for governor of the Bank of Japan.

¶2. "Hu Government to Be Tested over Tibet Unrest" Business-oriented Nikkei editorialized (3/19): "The government of Hu Jintao began its second term following the recent reelection of President Hu and Premier Wen Jiabao, setting forth into a situation in which China's international reputation has been damaged by the unrest in Tibet.... The Beijing government under the leadership of Hu and Wen should be fully aware that the international community is closely watching China. The Hu administration should immediately take measures to realize democratization, including freedom of speech and press."

¶3. "China Should Not Close Door to Dialogue" The liberal Asahi's editorial said: "...Complicated issues, such as freedom of religion and autonomy for Tibetans, as well as the economic disparities between Tibetans and ethnic Chinese, lie behind the recent unrest. It will be impossible for the Beijing government to put down the protests only by force while refusing dialogue.... It is necessary for China to clarify what has happened in Tibet and to hold a serious dialogue with Tibetans in order to reach a peaceful solution.... There is a wide gap between the Chinese authorities and the Tibetan government in exile over such issues as the number of casualties. The actual situation in Tibet is unknown, as foreigners have been kept out of the

region. China should accept international investigators if it claims that things have returned to normal in Tibet."

SCHIEFFER